

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PARM IN US
SUBJECT: G.K. REDDY ON NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS TALKS

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION NEW DELHI INFO BOMBAY FROM MADRAS
AUG 02 REPEATED:

QUOTE

MADRAS 1259

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PARM, IN, US
SUBJECT: G.K. REDDY ON NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS TALKS

FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF G.K. REDDY ARTICLE TITLED:
"GOOD START TO TALKS ON NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS" APPEARING
IN AUGUST 2 HINDU.

QUOTE

NEW DELHI, AUG. 1.

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THE U.S. DEPUTY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE, MR. JESEPH NYE,
CALLED ON THE PRIME MINISTER, MR. MORARJI DESAI, TODAY AFTER
TWO ROUNDS OF TALKS WITH SENIOR INDIAN OFFICIALS ON THE POLITICAL
AND TECHNICAL IMPLICATIONS OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S INSISTENCE
ON "FULL SCOPE" SAFEGUARDS TO CONTAIN THE DANGERS OF NUCLEAR
PROLIFERATION.

THE SOFT-SPOKEN AND MILD- MANNERED MR. NYE, A HARVARD
PROFESSOR WHO HAS EMERGED AS THE KEY NEGOTIATOR OF THE CARTER
ADMINISTRATION ON NUCLEAR ISSUES, ARRIVED IN DELHI LAST NIGHT

ACCOMPANIED BY THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE U.S. ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT AGENCY, MR. CHARLES VAN DOREN, AND THE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, MR. NELSON SIEVERING, TO BEGIN THE DIALOGUE WITH INDIA ON THIS SENSITIVE PROBLEM.

THE INDIAN OFFICIALS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THESE DISCUSSIONS TODAY INCLUDED THE PRIME MINISTER'S PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, MR. V. SHANKAR, WHO IS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION, THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, MR. J.S. MEHTA, WHO SPECIALLY FLEW BACK TO DELHI FROM DACCA FOR A DAY TO TAKE PART IN THESE CRUCIAL TALKS, MR. M.A. VELLODI, SECRETARY IN THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY WHO IS A SPECIALIST ON NUCLEAR PROBLEMS, AND MR. K.P. JAIN, DIRECTOR OF DISARMAMENT IN THE U.S. DIVISION.

THE FOREIGN SECRETARY WOULD BE RETURNING TO DACCA TOMORROW TO RESUME THE FARAKKA NEGOTIATIONS THERE AFTER THE THREE U.S. OFFICIALS ACCOMPANIED BY MR. VELLODI LEAVE FOR BOMBAY FOR TECHNICAL TALKS WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION, DR. H.N. SETHNA, THE DIRECTOR OF THE BHABHA ATOMIC RESEARCH CENTRE, DR. RAJA RAMANNA, AND OTHER SENIOR INDIAN NUCLEAR SCIENTISTS, BEFORE GOING TO TARAPUR THE NEXT DAY FOR AN ON-THE -SPOT STUDY OF THE INSPECTION PROBLEMS.
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THE IMPORTANCE THAT INDIA WAS ATTACHING TO THESE INDO-AMERICAN EXCHANGES ON THE NUCLEAR ISSUE WAS EVIDENT FROM THE FACT THAT MR. MEHTA HAD TO INTERRUPT THE MORE URGENT FARAKKA NEGOTIATIONS AND GET BACK TO DELHI FOR A DAY TO JOIN THESE DISCUSSIONS. HIS PRESENCE WAS CONSIDERED NECESSARY SINCE HE HAD A PRELIMINARY TALK WITH MR. NYE IN LONDON AT THE TIME OF THE COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE IN JUNE, BEFORE MR. DESAI HAD ANNOUNCED THAT INDIA HAD NO INTENTION OF CARRYING OUT FURTHER TEST EXPLOSIONS IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

AT THE TWO ROUNDS OF TALKS TODAY WHICH LASTED ALTOGETHER THREE AND A HALF HOURS, THE INDIAN AND U.S. OFFICIALS HAD WHAT WAS DESCRIBED AS A GOOD EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON ALL ASPECTS OF THE NUCLEAR PROBLEM. THE TALKS WENT OFF VERY WELL WITH BOTH SIDES PUTTING SOME SEARCHING QUESTIONS TO EACH OTHER-- AND RECEIVING CANDID REPLIES TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES. THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THESE TALKS WAS TO ESTABLISH SOME DEGREE OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR RESPECTIVE APPROACHES AND PREPARE THE GROUND FOR MORE DETAILED DISCUSSIONS BEFORE THE WHOLE ISSUE COULD BE SETTLED AT A POLITICAL LEVEL AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME.

THESE OFFICIAL LEVEL DISCUSSIONS WOULD PROBABLY BE CARRIED FORWARD TO THE NEXT STAGE WHEN THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER, MR. VAJPAYEE, GOES TO WASHINGTON DURING THE FORTHCOMING U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION. IF ANY MAJOR POINTS STILL REMAINED TO BE SETTLED, THEY COULD BE TACKLED WHEN THE U.S.

SECRETARY OF STATE, MR. CYRUS VANCE, VISITS DELHI LATER THIS YEAR FOR THE LONG-OVERDUE SECOND MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE INDO-AMERICAN JOINT COMMISSION. A VISIT BY THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE UNITED STATES IS VERY MUCH ON THE CARDS, ALTHOUGH NO DATES HAVE YET BEEN SET FOR IT. THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WOULD LIKE HIM TO MAKE THIS TRIP WHILE THE U.S. PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE RECENT INDIAN DEVELOPMENTS IS STILL FRESH, BUT IT DOES NOT WANT THE DESAI AND VAJPAYEE VISITS TO OVERLAP AND LESSEN THEIR DUAL IMPACT.

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MR. NYE AND HIS TWO COLLEAGUES DID THEIR BEST TO IMPRESS ON THEIR INDIAN COUNTERPARTS THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S ATTEMPTS TO EVOLVE AN INTERNATIONAL CONSENSUS ON THE BEST POSSIBLE WAYS OF SAFEGUARDING THE USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES, WHILE TAKING THE NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS TO PREVENT ITS MISUSE, WAS INTENDED FOR GLOBAL APPLICATION. THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION WAS APPROACHING THE PROBLEM OF STRICTER SUPERVISION OF AMERICAN SUPPLIED NUCLEAR EQUIPMENT AND FUEL ELEMENTS IN THEIR WORLDWIDE CONTEXT, NOT IN A NARROW BILATERAL SENSE TO COMPEL INDIA TO FALL IN LINE. THE TWO COUNTRIES, MR. NYE MAINTAINED, HAD A SHARED INTEREST IN AVERTING PROLIFERATION BY WORKING TOGETHER IN ESTABLISHING A NEW INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR ORDER THAT KEPT UP A PROPER DISTINCTION BETWEEN LEGITIMATE USES AND POTENTIAL MISUSES.

THOUGH THE TWO COUNTRIES ARE AGREED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-PROLIFERATION, THERE IS A WIDE GAP BETWEEN THE INDIAN AND U.S. CONCEPTS OF IT. IN VIRTUALLY GIVING UP ITS RIGHT TO CARRY OUT FURTHER TESTS, INDIA HAS MADE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT IT CANNOT AND WILL NOT SIGN THE NPT UNLESS THE NUCLEAR WEAPON POWERS ARE PREPARED TO HALT THEIR NUCLEAR ARMS RACE AND AGREE TO DISMANTLE PROGRESSIVELY THEIR STOCKPILES. INDIA HAS ALSO TAKEN THE STAND THAT IT CANNOT SUBMIT ITSELF TO "FULL SCOPE" INSPECTION OF ALL ITS NUCLEAR FACILITIES AND RESEARCH PROGRAMMES WITHOUT RECIPROCAL SAFEGUARDS AGAINST THEIR ACTIVITIES IN COMPARABLE SPHERES. THE QUESTION IS HOW TO APPLY THIS TENET OF PARITY IN ACTUAL PRACTICE FOR ESTABLISHING A BALANCED INTERNAL INSPECTION SYSTEM ACCEPTABLE TO ALL CONCERNED NATIONS.

IN THE LIMITED SPHERE OF THE TARAPUR POWER PLANT, THE INDO-U.S. AGREEMENT SIGNED IN 1963 PROVIDING FOR BILATERAL SAFEGUARDS

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WAS SUBSEQUENTLY REVISED TO THROW IT OPEN TO TRILATERAL INSPECTION BY THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY. THE U.S. INSPECTORS HAVE HAD UNRESTRICTED ACCESS ALL THESE YEARS TO THIS POWER PLANT, AND THE IAEA, TOO SENT ITS INSPECTION TEAMS WHENEVER IT WANTED AFTER NOTIFYING THE INDIAN ATOMIC

ENERGY COMMISSION. WHAT IS NOW BEING SOUGHT BY THE U.S. IS A GENERAL TIGHTENING UP OF BOTH THE BILATERAL AND TRILATERAL INSPECTION PROCEDURES AT TARAPUR, WHILE NEGOTIATING FULLER SAFEGUARDS ON THE ENTIRE INDIAN NUCLEAR PROGRAMME AS PART OF THE WIDER INTERNATIONAL EFFORT TO CONTAIN PROLIFERATION.

IT IS, THEREFORE, BEING SUGGESTED THAT THE RESIDENT U.S. INSPECTORS SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO MONITOR THE WHOLE CYCLE OF ACTIVITY THROUGH COMPUTERISED CONTROLS AND A CLOSED-CIRCUIT TV SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM. THE IAEA TEAMS ALSO SHOULD BE ENTITLED TO PAY SURPRISE VISITS TO MAKE SPOT CHECKS OF THE DATA PROVIDED BY INDIA OF THE FISSIONABLE MATERIALS AND THE SPENT FUELS TO PROTECT AGAINST POSSIBLE DIVERSION.

UNQUOTE. SCOTT

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Message Attributes

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